the establishment of the Centre in India was undertaken as per subsequent decision taken at a meeting held in Bangalore in January last;

(b) whether China has opposed the establishment of the United Nations' Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology for Asia and the pacific in India; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and Government of India's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a)

(a) In response to a UN General Assembly's endorsement of a UNISPACE'82 recommendation, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) developed a proposal for the establishment of centres for space science and technology education in developing countries. Based on this the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) recommended to the General Assembly that the UN should lead an international efforts to establish regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national/ regional educational institutions in the developing countries. China, India Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand offered to host this centre for the Asia Pacific Region. A UN evaluation Mission examined these offers and finally came to the conclusion that the offers and commitments made by India in its proposal favour an early establishment and operation of the centre in this region. The UN Office for Outer Space Affairs subsequently issued a statement identifying India as the location for this centre. This was duly noted by COPOUS at its 32nd session held at Vienna in February 1995. A meeting of the countries which made proposals and others in the region which have significant space activities took place at Bangalore in January 1995, at which time a draft agreement to be signed by the countries relating to the establishment of the centre and its administration was drawn up.

(b) and (c) China has expressed its view that the procedure adopted for the selection of the centre was flawed because it was inconsistent with the principle of democratic consultation and that, although the Office for Outer Space Affairs was aware of the different views of the Member States on this matter, the selection had not been based on consultations among Member States of the region nor on the consensus agreement of Member States of the region that are members of the Committee. India maintained that the decision to locate the centre in India was taken by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs following a UN Evaluation Mission Report. India has also taken steps for setting up the centre, at the earliest.

12.00 NOON

(**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Madam, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution:—

(1) G.S.R No. 863(E), closed the 14th December, 1994, publishing the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Third Amendment Rules, 1994.

(2) G.S.R. No. 41 (E), dated the 25th January, 1995, amending the Notification No. 863 (E), dated the 14th December, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7079/95]

Reported and Accounts (1993-94) of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): Madam I lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

II. Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7117/95]

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम, इसमें मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है ।

उपसभापति : आपकी व्यवस्था का प्रश्न क्या है ? बोलिए, व्यवस्था की बात ।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मैडम, इसमें जो वर्तमान एनुअल रिपोर्ट है, यह वित्तीय वर्ष 1993-94 की है । . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . . मैडम, आमतौर से कोई डिले होती है तभी रीजन्स दिए जाते हैं । यह रिपोर्ट 1993-94 वित्तीय वर्ष की है । मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इसमें विलंब कहां हुआ है जो इस पर रीजन्स दे रहे हैं । . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . .

The Minister has said, "Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above." According to me, there is no delay. Therefore, there should have been no explanation of any delay in laying this paper on the Table now.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह (बिहार) : मंत्री ही विलंब से बने तो क्या करें ? पहले ही से इंतजार में थे । . . **(व्यवधान)** . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think everything should be made clear now. (*Interruptions*). Order in the House, please. There is always some objection. (*Interruptions*). Can I have my say, please ?

Every day, I have to deal with the same problem. Some day, Members say, "Why is there a delay in laying the papers?". Last week, we had explanations for delay in some cases; and there was no explanation for delay in some cases. There was a little confusion. Now, today, it is a new objection raised by Satya Prakashji. He says that for Papers of 1993-94, it should not have been considered that there was a delay and so there should not have been an explanation. I think we will have to sort it out as to till what date there has to be an explanation for delay or till what year there should not be any explanation for delay I put it before the Minister.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): There is a Committee dealing with it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table. I will request the Chairman of the Committee to look into the matter because last week, some Papers, some reports, were laid on the Table and they were also of 1993-94; and there wa